Bernardo Alfonso LEAL Puchi (Phonetic: LAVahl)

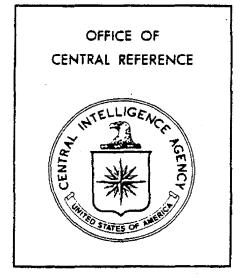
VENEZUELA

(Phonetic: LAYahl)

Minister of National Defense (since July 1981)

Addressed as: Mr. Minister

Army Maj. Gen. Bernardo Leal holds one of Venezuela's most prestigious positions. As Minister of Defense, he has supported Venezuelan participation in joint military programs with the United States. An



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experienced artillery instructor, Leal has held the key posts of Inspector General (1979-80), the Army's second-ranking position, and Army Chief of Staff (1980-81).

After graduating from the Military Academy in 1952, Leal rose rapidly through the ranks. In addition to teaching courses at the Armor and Artillery School in Caracas, he attended advanced military schools in the United States during 1962-63 and in Spain in 1965. In 1970, after serving as an instructor at the Army War College, Leal was assigned to the Plans Department of the General Staff Office at Army headquarters in Caracas. During the late 1970s he held several positions, including those of director of Army artillery (1976-77) and commander of the 1st Cavalry Division (1977-79). then served briefly as director of Army education before becoming Inspector General. He has held the rank of major general since 1979.

Leal has written numerous instructional and training manuals. He has received several military awards. Leal, 50, speaks some English. He is married to the former Juanita Perdoma and has three grown children: Bernardo, Jesús and Carmen.

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